



NATIONAL
NOTARY
ASSOCIATION

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 1
Date 2-4-09
Bill No. SB 299
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February 3, 2009

The Honorable Jim Shockley
Chairman, Senate State Administration Committee
Montana Senate
P.O. Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

RE: NNA's Strong Support for Senate Bill 299

Dear Senator Shockley:

On behalf of the National Notary Association, a non-profit professional association serving the nearly 5 million Notaries Public of the United States – and the 21,000 Notaries of the state of Montana – we offer our strong support for Senate Bill 299. This important legislation provides a long-needed update to Montana notarial statutes that better equips Notaries to serve as the state's front line of defense against document fraud in this era of proliferating identity theft.

SB 299 mandates training and testing of Notaries, which the increasing complexity and urgency of the Notary's role has made a necessity. The provision that Notaries must maintain a record of each official act within a journal will serve as a strong deterrent to fraud and identity theft – as it does in many states that mandate journals. This requirement will also prevent baseless lawsuits and provide indispensable evidence to law enforcement in prosecuting forgeries and other identity crimes.

We congratulate you for introducing SB 299 and urge its enactment in the interests of the Notaries of Montana and the public they protect from document fraud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Timothy S. Reiniger".

Timothy S. Reiniger, Esq.
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State
The Honorable Joe Tropila, State Senate, Montana